

OPI Mission, Goals and Objectives

Mission: It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve.

Program 06: STATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

- GOAL 1:** Support schools so that all students can achieve high standards
GOAL 2: Assess and communicate the quality and achievements of K-12 education
GOAL 3: Provide access to and management of information and data related to K-12 school improvement
GOAL 4: Deliver quality instruction through professional development
GOAL 5: Support accountability and improvement in all Montana schools

GOAL 1: Support schools so that all students can achieve high standards

- Provide training to implement Board of Public Education accreditation standards
- Provide training to assist districts and schools with the development of data-driven 5 Year Comprehensive Education Plans
- Provide targeted assistance and training for low performing and/or at-risk students and schools
- License educators in compliance with the rules of the Board of Public Education
- Provide assistance to Montana educators in the efficient and effective use of resources
- Assist in the development of partnerships to extend and enhance the resources of school districts
- Provide technical assistance to schools to serve students with special needs
- Make timely and correct payments of state and federal aid to Montana's local education agencies
- Assist school districts in completing their annual budgets, maintaining their accounting records and preparing their financial reports
- Present accounting/budgeting workshops in seven regions across the state to an audience of school district officials, county officials and local government auditors
- Update all budget and accounting forms, instructions and policy guidance at a minimum of once each year
- Provide comprehensive and focused technical assistance to local districts to increase the achievement and graduation rates of American Indian students.
- Develop and disseminate accurate curricular materials and resources to assist classroom teachers with the implementation of Indian Education for All.

GOAL 2: Assess and communicate the quality and achievements of K-12 education

- Recommend an accreditation status to the Board of Public Education for each public or private school seeking accreditation

- Develop and disseminate information about our K-12 public schools and students across a broad range of indicators of quality.
- Provide leadership and assistance in the assessment of student achievement
- Provide assistance and training to Montana educators to administer and analyze large-scale student assessment
- Collect, analyze and report information to the public concerning Montana students, educators and school districts
- Administer recognition programs for Montana students, educators and school districts
- Identify gaps in educational opportunity and provide focused, on-going and sustained technical assistance to local schools to close the achievement gap that exists between American Indian and white students.

GOAL 3: Provide access to and management of information and data related to K-12 school improvement

- Implement a procedure to assess and track student achievement in accordance with the provisions of a basic system of free quality public schools
- Annually publish the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Report Card for Montana and its schools and districts
- Assist Montana educators in the development of local 5 Year Comprehensive Education Plans
- Streamline and automate the reporting of non-fiscal data by school districts to the Office of Public Instruction
- Maintain an Internet site that contains updated information about school improvement, other educational activities and research
- Enhance electronic systems for Montana educators to report and retrieve information and data related to K-12 education
- Assist Montana educators and the public in the use of information and data to improve Montana schools
- Upgrade the electronic financial reporting system (MAEFAIRS) to use web-based technologies

GOAL 4: Deliver quality instruction through professional development

- Collaborate with educators and other interested parties to develop job-imbedded, research-based, and sustained professional development
- Deliver professional development through on-site visits, workshops, conferences, publications and distance learning opportunities
- Deliver a comprehensive Indian Education For All professional development system that focuses on best practices and curriculum integration that includes regional opportunities, training of trainers, and online professional development so the constitutional obligation that ALL Montana students receive a quality education that includes IEFA is achieved.
- Deliver professional development on best-practices in mentoring K-12 teachers and how to develop district teacher mentor programs.

GOAL 5: Support accountability and improvement in all Montana schools

- Monitor and enforce compliance with state and federal program, fiscal, and reporting requirements
- Assist Montana educators to comply with state and federal program, fiscal, and reporting requirements
- Provide assistance concerning research-based practices to improve teaching and learning.
- Review and update the Board of Public Education's accreditation process
- Monitor, enforce, and report compliance with state and federal regulations that govern districts' use of financial resources
- Review and approve district audit reports and corrective action plans each year
- Work with assessment contractors and school personnel to ensure quality control in the administration of statewide student assessments
- Prepare and present a report to the Board of Public Education each year on the results of statewide student assessments
- Implement an education accountability process based on multiple measure of student and school performance that complies with No Child Left Behind and is responsive to Montana's rural demographics

Program 09: LOCAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

GOAL 1: Make timely and correct payments of state and federal aid to Montana's local education agencies

- Assist school districts and other subgrantees of state and federal funds to achieve the goals and objectives of the grant programs and to comply with the grant requirements
- To use electronic funds transfer as a cost-efficient, secure and trackable means of distributing funds to schools, counties and other education service providers
- Use OPI's web-enabled electronic grants management system to support the state and federal grant management process, including the allocation of funds, the application process, amendments to grant applications, payments to grant recipients, reporting to the grantor, and close-out reports.